

In the Claims

Please amend the claims presented during the international phase as follows.

Applicant presents a full set of claims showing markups of the claims with insertions and deletions indicated by underlining and strikethrough text (or double bracketing), respectively.

1. (Original) A composition which comprises a component which is susceptible to free radical attack, said composition comprising, as a free radical scavenger, at least one particle having a size not exceeding 100 nm of an oxide of a rare earth or transition metal possessing adjacent oxidation states.
2. (Original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the energy levels of said adjacent oxidation states do not differ by more than 2 eV.
3. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~ wherein the oxide is of cerium, manganese, vanadium, chromium or iron.
4. (Original) A composition according to claim 3 wherein the oxide is manganese oxide.
5. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the oxide has a particle size not exceeding 20 nm.
6. (Original) A composition according to claim 5 wherein the oxide has a particle size from 5 to 15 nm.
7. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the oxide is present in an amount from 0.5 to 20 % by weight.
8. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ which is a UV sunscreen composition.
9. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ which is suitable for cosmetic use.

10. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 8 [[or 9]] which contains a W sunscreen agent which is adversely affected by free radicals.
11. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 8 [[or 10]] wherein the organic sunscreen agent is a paraaminobenzoic acid, ester or derivative thereof, a methoxy cinnamate ester, a benzophenone, a dibenzylomethane, an allyl- β , p-phenyl acrylate, a triazine, a camphor derivative, an organic pigment, a silicone based sunscreen agent or 2-phenylbenzimidazol-5 sulphonic acid or phenyldibenzimidazol sulphonic acid.
12. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 8 ~~any one of claims 8 to 11~~ which is a sunscreen.
13. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 8 ~~any one of claims 8 to 12~~ which is in the form of a lotion, gel, dispersion, cream, milk, powder or solid stick.
14. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 12 [[or 13]] which comprises a water-dispersible and an oil-dispersible metal oxide.
15. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ which is a polymeric composition.
16. (Original) A composition according to claim 15 wherein the polymeric material is thermoplastic.
17. (Original) A composition according to claim 15 wherein the polymeric material is thermosetting.
18. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 17~~ which is in the form of a three dimensional article.
19. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 17~~ which is in the form of a film or a fibre or a fabric.

20. (Original) A composition according to claim 19 which is in the form of a photographic film.
21. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 17~~ which is in the form of a coating composition.
22. (Original) A composition according to claim 15 which is in the form of a paint or varnish.
23. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ which comprises at least one organic veterinarily, agriculturally and/or horticulturally active compound.
24. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ suitable for household use which comprises at least one organic biocide.
25. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 23 [[or 24]] wherein the active compound is a herbicide, fungicide, insecticide, acaricide, miticide or rodenticide.
26. (Canceled)
27. (Currently amended) A method for reducing the concentration of one or more components susceptible to free radical attack in a composition containing said component comprising incorporating into the composition ~~Use of~~ a particle of a metal oxide as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ to reduce the concentration of the one or more components susceptible to free radical attack in [[a]] the ~~composition containing said component~~.
28. (Currently amended) A method for reducing the rate of loss in UV absorption of a sunscreen composition containing an organic UV sunscreen agent which is adversely affected by free radical attack comprising incorporating into the composition ~~Use of~~ a particle of a metal oxide as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ to reduce the rate of loss in UV absorption of [[a]] the sunscreen composition containing [[an]] the organic UV sunscreen agent which is adversely affected by free radical attack.

29. (Currently amended) A method for increasing the shelf life of one or more veterinarily, agriculturally and/or horticulturally active compounds in a composition suitable for veterinary, agricultural, horticultural or household use comprising incorporating into the composition Use of a particle of a metal oxide as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ to increase the shelf life of the one or more veterinarily, agriculturally and/or horticulturally active compounds in ~~[[a]]~~ the composition suitable for veterinary, agricultural, horticultural or household use.

30. (Currently amended) A method of increasing the effectiveness of a composition which comprises one or more components which are susceptible to free radical attack which comprises incorporating into the composition a particle of a metal oxide as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~.